



**Testimony to the Appropriations Committee**

**Submitted by Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge Connecticut**

**February 19, 2016**

**Regarding the Governor's Budget Recommendation for the Commission on Aging  
HB 5044, An Act Making Adjustments to State Expenditures for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017**

LeadingAge Connecticut is a membership organization of 130 not-for-profit organizations representing the entire field of aging services and senior housing.

On behalf of LeadingAge Connecticut, I would like submit the following testimony in support of Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging.

The Commission on Aging was established to promote public policy that embraces best practices, national trends and statewide needs on issues such as senior housing, health care, long-term care, and transportation. The Commission does just that with the guidance and insight of a representative volunteer board that provides knowledge, expertise, and an informed policy perspective. They are a valuable resource that must be maintained at this critical time in our state's history.

As a member of the Long-Term Care Advisory Committee, LeadingAge Connecticut has greatly appreciated the leadership role of the Commission and its Executive Director. A unifying force, the Commission on Aging has brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to work toward the common goal of achieving a seamless system of long-term services and supports and has been a driving force in the state's current long-term services and supports systems change. They have also led the Advisory Committee's consolidated effort to develop a long-term care needs assessment.

Their leadership on the issue of Livable Communities and Aging in Place has brought an even larger, more diverse group of stakeholders to the table for these important discussions. Municipalities, providers, consumers, policymakers and advocates are now all engaged in these important discussions and this work must continue as we face the historic aging of our state's population.

It is a critical time for aging issues and I would encourage the Appropriations Committee to support the Commission on Aging and to utilize it as the resource it is on issues related to long-term care, services and supports and the issues of aging in our state.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

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